Research Notes on John Flaherty (1793 -)

Research Overview

John Flaherty left Ireland in the early nineteenth century and settled in Montréal decades before large-scale Irish migration made such movement common. His timing alone makes him unusual. Parish baptisms show that his family was established in Canada by 1813, well before the Great Famine and among the earliest Irish families recorded in the city. The records do not explain why he left Ireland around 1812 or whether Montréal was his intended destination; they show only that his family was established in a place and climate very different from the one he left behind.

In Montréal, John Flaherty first appears in the record alongside his wife, Honora Brown, through the baptisms of their children, beginning in 1813 and continuing for nearly two decades. These entries anchor the family firmly in the city at a time when many early immigrant lives are only briefly visible. Although no marriage record has been identified, the French Canadian parish registers repeatedly record John Flaherty and Honora Brown together as parents.

John Flaherty is identified in the records as a butcher, an occupation that distinguishes him from the more common designation of laborer found among early immigrants. The record offers no detail about his work, but the occupation places him within the routine provisioning life of the city rather than in transient or seasonal labor. Its appearance alongside decades of parish records reinforces his long-term residence in Montréal.

Several of his daughters died in Montréal, while one daughter died many years later in Michigan. John himself died in Montréal, closing a life that began in Ireland and unfolded largely within a single North American city.

Timeline

1793 - Birth in Ireland (place not stated).

c. 1812 - Marriage to Honora Brown in Ireland or Montreal, Canada

20 Jul 1813 - Baptism of daughter Catherine Flaherty (1813–1890) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Apr 1820 - Baptism of daughter Mary Flaherty (1820–1889) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Aug 1822 - Baptism of daughter Hannah Flaherty (1822–1867) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

29 Oct 1824 - Baptism of son William Flaherty (1824–) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Feb 1827 - Baptism of daughter Helene Flaherty (1827–) in Canada

Mar 1829 - Baptism of daughter Ann Flaherty (1829–) in Canada

1831 - Baptism of daughter Elizabeth Flaherty (1831–1847) in Canada

5 Aug 1847 - **Death of daughter Elizabeth Flaherty** (1831–1847) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Sep 1867 - Death of daughter Hannah Flaherty (1822–1867) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

5 Apr 1889 - Death of daughter Mary Flaherty (1820–1889) at Montréal, Quebec, Canada

8 Nov 1890 - **Death of daughter Catherine Flaherty** (1813–1890) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Death - Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Occupation - Butcher

John Flaherty is recorded as a butcher (date not stated).